

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
57TH INFANTRY PLATOON (SCOUT DOG) AMERICAL DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96219

5 May 1969

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Off-Leash Scout Dogs

STATEMENT OF PLATOON COMMANDER:

Both off-leash dogs which have become operational with this unit have been a definite asset over and above an "on-leash" Scout Dog. The handlers initially experienced a control difficulty due to the presence of many Vietnamese civilians and livestock.

The dogs are all exceptional in their ability to alert on enemy personnel over great distances. Their ability in detecting caches, mines, dud rounds and trip wires is also above the usual performance expected of an "on-leash" dog.

The dogs seldom work further than 25-30 meters ahead of the handler. Usually the distance is 15 meters unless unusually open terrain is encountered.

The presence of large numbers of booby traps in certain areas makes it imperative that the handler be able to effectively control his dog within the narrowest confines as possible. The dog should be trained to keep to the immediate front of the handler on command without the normal zig-zag sweep-search covering a large area.

I have been very satisfied by the professionalism displayed by these off-leash teams. The amount of time required to get these teams operational is also minimal when compared to an "on-leash" dog.

MARK F. STICHEL
2LT, Infantry
Commanding Officer

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